HFM_98

1942

HFM-98

Vol no 98 ①

[Extract taken from Govt OF MS Secret Book]

DISTRICT Calendar of Events

of

Civil Disobedience Movement

Pages 1 to 16

பாதுகாப்பு பிரிவு - 1

செப்பனிடுபவர் பெயர் ஏ. சுவாமிவேல்

செப்பனிடுவதற்காக எடுத்துக் கொள்ளப்பட்ட நாள் 08/2007

செப்பனிட்டு முடிந்த நாள் 09/2007.

14/9/07 26/9/07 1.11.07

சரிபார்க்கும் முதல் மு. நி. பா. எ. கையொப்பம்	சரிபார்க்கும் 2ம். நி. பா. எ. கையொப்பம்.	ஆராய்ச்சி உதவியாளர் கையொப்பம்

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DISTRICT CALENDER OF EVENTS OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT.

AUGUST TO DECEMBER 1942.

NOTE: Taken from the Government of Madras Secret Book.

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MADRAS CITY:

There was no very violent or active manifestation of the Civil Disobedience Movement in the city of Madras, presumably due to the presence of large number of troops in and around the city and the prompt measures taken by the Police. Before the movement could be organized and developed most of the Congress leaders in the City were arrested and detained. On 13th August 1942 Dr. Maheswar Arya and his wife Mrs. Kamala Devi Arya, members of the Madras Andhra District Congress Committee went in procession in the Washermanpet area and distributed leaflets in Hindi to the Indian troops in the area exhorting them to resign their jobs. They were arrested. P.M.Sivagnana Gramani was arrested and sent to the Central Jail, Vellore. Communists organized an anti-fascist meeting in the Wadia Park. On 17th August Sri V.V. Giri, ex-Minister and President, All India Trade Union Congress, was arrested and detained. The timely arrest of Sri V.V. Giri prevented the movement spreading actively into the labouring classes. Attempts were made to burn the Vepery Post Office, Mannady Post Office and Muthialpet Police Station. A crude bomb made by wrapping a number of iron rivet heads and gun powder in paper and cloth was thrown in to Muthialpet Police Station on the night of 7th October 1942. The Bomb burst into flames and caused the iron pellets to scatter. A civic guard sleeping in the Station was injured and a register of Police station charred. The main activity in the city centred round the educational institutions, where students organized strikes, processions and other demonstrations. Students who indulged in stone throwing at the Suburban electric trains caused some damage. The early closing of some of the educational institutions for Michaelmas and the appeal made to the parents restored order among the students.

Total number of persons detained upto 31st December 1942 in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement -- 53. Total

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number of persons convicted upto 31st December 1942 in connection with Civil Disobedience Movement .. 60.

NORTH ARCOT.

There were no serious outbreaks of violence in this district. Some processions and hartals took place which were quickly brought under control. A number of acts of clandestine sabotage were however committed. Telephone and telegraph wires cut in several places and post boxes were stolen. The Public works Department inspection bunglow at Panapakam was burnt on the 25th August 1942 and on the 1st September three blocks of the newly built police huts in Vellore were also burnt. Three forest rest-houses near Vellore and two village chavadies in Panapakam and Timiri were also set on fire. In addition to these acts of incendiarism a goods train was detailed on 26th October 1942 between Tandarai and Adichanur railway stations of South India Rly. The Engine and two vehicles passed over safely but the next 24 vehecles got off the rails, toppled over and crashed with the result that six waggons were telescoped. The centre brake van which was in the midst of the detailed vehecles was smashed and the brakes-man in it was killed. The accident was due to the removal of the fish-plates and rails.

Total number of persons detained upto 31st December 1942 in connection with the civil disobedience movement -- 37. Total number of persons convicted in connection with the Civil disobedience Movement upto 31st December 1942 - 17. Collective fines were imposed and the collection amounted to Rs.6,535.

SOUTH ARCOT.

There were no violent outbreaks in the district. The main activity was by the students of the Annamalai University who took a prominent part in organizing strikes, taking out processions, hoisting Congress flags, etc. On the night of the 10th October 1942, the motor car of the Circle Inspector of Police Tirukkoyilur, was burnt by some miscreants. Telegraph and telephone wires were cut in a number of places. Total number of persons detained upto 31st December 1942 in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement .. 25. Total number of persons convicted in connection with Civil Disobedience Movement upto the 31st December 1942-44.

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CHINGLEPUT DISTRICT:

The Civil Disobedience movement in the district to a certain extent centred round the important educational institutions as in the case of the Madras City which the district adjoins. On 27th August five Loyola College students were arrested as part of a mob who had put gravel in the points and places a boulder on the railway line between Chromepet and Tambaram. They were sentenced to a fine of Rs.100/- each. At Tambaram the students who were on the railway line were dispersed by lathi charge. Two students were given sentence of whipping. These punishments had a good effect on the Loyala College Students as they did not interfere any further with electric trains.

Attempts were made to burn the branch post office at Kalathi, village and post Office in Chingleput town. Important cases of incendiarism were the burning of three sheds of the Essential Services camp at Vallur and the two thatched sheds of the District Board High School at Ponneri.

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Total number of persons detained upto 31st December 1942 in connection with Civil Disobedience Movement .. 23. Total Number of persons convicted upto 31st December 1942 in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement .. 29. Total Collection of fines were imposed and the collection amounted to Rs.5,000/-

The Chingleput district Board was superseded for a period of six months for passing resolutions on 7th September 1942, approving ~~of~~ the decision of the All India Congress Committee, condemning the measures adopted by the Government to put down disorderly activities and resolving to close all offices and institutions under the board on 15th September 1942 as a mark of protest.

The ~~demand~~ Demal Panchayat Board was superseded for a period of six months for passing a resolution on 19th September 1942 supporting the resolution of the All India Congress Committee, and condemning the measures taken by the Government to put down the Civil Disobedience Movement.

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COIMBATORE DISTRICT;

Due to the presence of a good number of mills in the district there was agitation among the labouring classes in the industrial areas.

There was a stay-in-strike in the Pankaja Mills on 22nd August 1942 for payment of three months bonus instead of one months bonus offered to them. At noon the police went to the scene and cleared the labourers out of the mills by a lathi charge. But they threw stones from a field opposite to the mills and grew more violent. After due warning the Police opened fire. In all 19 rounds were fired, killing two persons. A few of the Police officers were wounded. The car of the Inspector of Police was badly damaged.

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A case of deliberate sabotage was the derailment of an ammunition supply train from Cochin at 2 a.m. on 14th August 1942, caused by the removal of fish-plates, spikes etc., between Podanur and Singanallur stations. The two engines attached to the train ran down the embankment and capsized, as also 11 wagons which contained 25Lb. shells. There were two other attempts at derailment of trains which were frustrated by timely detection.

A number of attempts at incendiarism was also made in the district. The most serious one was at Sulur where a mob of 200 set fire to the thatched shed, attached to the R.A.F. Aeroderoome at 2 a.m. on 27th August 1942, destroying the sheds completely and the 22 motor lorries kept inside them. Two drivers were also burnt to death. The Coolie shed about half a mile away from the aerodrome was also set on fire. One coolie was burnt to death. Telegraph and telephone wires were cut in a number of places.

Total number of persons detained upto 31st December 1942.. in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement is 28. Total number of persons convicted upto 31st December 1942 in connection with the civil disobedience movement is 73. Collective fines were imposed and the collection amounted to Rs.35,410/--

As the Coimbatore Municipal Council at its meeting held on the 26th September 1942 passed resolution endorsing and supporting the resolution of the All India Congress Committee and strongly protesting against and condemning the alleged repressive policy of the Government, the Government superseded the council for a period of Six months.

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SOUTH CANARA

There were not many serious disturbances or outbursts of violence in the district. Agitation in the district started with hartals at Udipi, Goondapur and Karkal, and strikes and procession of students. The few meetings which were held did not evoke much enthusiasm. On 19th August 1942 there was an attempt to

destroy a culvert near Mudagiri which was foiled by the timely intervention of the sub-Inspector of Police. Telephone and Telegraph wires were cut in a number of places and telegraphs posts were uprooted. The district Court and the Munisiff's court at Udipi and Kasargod were picketed for a number of days. A meeting held on 9th September 1942 in defiance of prohibitive orders, was dispersed by a mild lathi charge. Two constables going alone in Mangalore town were assaulted. On 7th December 1942 an attempt was made to set fire to the District Court buildings at Mangalore. It was discovered in time and the fire extinguished.

Total number of persons detained upto 31st December 1942 in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement.6. Total number of persons convicted upto 31st December 1942 in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement..177. No collective fines were imposed.

As the Badiadka Panchayat passed a resolution at its meeting held on the 24th October, 1942 that all the members of the Panchayat had resigned their membership as a mark of protest against the imprisonment of the Congress leaders and the measures taken by Government to put down the Congress movement, the Government superseded the Panchayat for a period of six months.

Twenty-nine out of thirty two councillors resigned their seats on the Mangalore Municipal Council, consequently the Council could not perform the duties imposed on it by law. The Government in November 1942 dissolved the Municipal Council and reconstituted it with effect from the 3rd January 1943 .

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MADURA

Madura town was the storm centre of the movement in the district, there being a large rowdy element in the city. There were many instances of mob violence mostly within the first week of the launching of the Civil Disobedience campaign, after which the movement more or less burnt itself out. The presence of military and reserve police and the firm handling of the situation by the local authorities were responsible for the movement not assuming alarming proportions. 10th August 1942 there were wide spread acts of hooliganism in the City. The rowdy elements assaulted public servants barricaded roads, cut telegraph wires and threatened shop keepers to close their shops. In the evening the mob attempted to hold a meeting in defiance of Section 144 order. The Police tried to disperse the crowd. But the hooligans threw stones at them and became very hostile. As the position became alarmingly serious, firing was, resorted to after due warning. Thirty rounds were fired, killing five and injuring 17. On 14th August 1942 bands of hooligans went about putting out lights, cutting telegraph and telephone wires which were strung across the roads to form obstacles to police patrols. They also set fire to the wooden cover of the A.R.P. Static ~~static~~ reservoir and to a police bus which was completely burnt. Attempts were also made to set fire to post offices. The Police opened fire, killing 6 and injuring 11. In all thirty rounds were fired. Thus in the first week of the disturbance there were assaults on public servants, attempts to disorganise the administration, stone-throwing at the Police, obstruction to communcations, cutting of telegraph and telephone wires etc.,

The most outrageous act committed against the police in the district was the throwing of acid on the Inspector of Police ~~(Coimbatore)~~ Constable. All the three were badly burnt in the face and neck. It is feared that the constable might also lose the sight of one eye.

Total number of persons detained and convicted upto 31st December 1942 in connection with Civil disobedience Movement..42 and 53 respectively. No ~~collection of~~ collective fines were imposed.

The Madhura Municipal council was superseded for a period of six months for passing a resolution on 19th August 1942 strongly condemning the action taken by the local authorities for putting down mob-violence and breaches of the peace that occured in Madura.

The Dindigul Municipal Council was superseded for a period of Six months for passing a resolution on 18th August 1942 condemning the "repressive" policy of the Government against the civil disobedience Movement.

The Madura District Board was superseded for a period of six months for passing a resolution at its meeting held on 1st September 1942, approving of the All India Congress Committee resolution of 8th August 1942, strongly condemning the alleged repressive policy of the Government authorising the president to utilize the facilities of the Board for the establishment of a democratic Government and ordering the closure of the offices on the 4th September 1942 and schools and other institutions ~~of~~ on the 9th September 1942.

The Palni Municipal Council was superseded for a period of six months for passing a resolution on 4th September 1942 condemning the repressive policy of the Government criticising the Government for having superseded Madura Municipal Council and accusing Government of lack of foresight and breadth of vision in its alleged denial of Independence to India.

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MALABAR DISTRICT:

There were no open acts of mob violence in the district. The timely arrest of Congress leader forestalled the programme of the Congressmen of a good deal. The counter-acting influence of the Muslim League and to a certain extent the non-participation attitude of the communist elements also seemed to have acted as a brake on the civil disobedience movement. There was a considerable amount of trouble by students all over the district particularly in Palghat. The use of light canes was found useful in dispersing these student demonstrators.

The most serious feature otherwise was the wide-spread use of explosives for sabotage. An attempt was made to blow up a 20-foot bridge on the railway line about 2 miles south of Tellicherry. On the right of 17th and 18th November, a country-made bomb exploded on the verandah of the Pallikunnu post office. An attempt was also made to blow up the District Munisif's court at Nadupuram. These were in addition many cases of arson and incendiarism. The railway station at Chemanchery and the Sub-Registry office at Chemanchery and Nauvanur were burnt. An attempt was made to set fire to some sleepers in the forest Department's Timber Depot at Kallayi but the attempt was promptly discovered and the fire extinguished. At Chomala five fish curing sheds ~~shed s~~ with all the office records and furniture were burnt. A number of arusam Cutcheries and village courts were also burnt down.

These acts of Sabotage especially those on the 17th and the 18th November appeared to be the work of an organised gang.

Total number of persons detained and convicted upto 31st December 1942 in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement .. 38 and 80. No collective fines were imposed.

The Calicut Municipal council was superseded for a period of six months for recording at its meeting held on 10th August 1942., its emphatic protest against the arrest of the Congress leaders and for requesting the public to implement the resolution passed by the All India Congress Committee.

THE NILGIRIS:

Things on the whole were uneventful in this district. The movement soon died out after a few incidents between 16th and 18th August. On the night of the 16th August 1942 the District Board School at Jagathala was broken into – a furniture etc., burnt. On the 17th and 18th these were demonstrations and processions by school students and Congress sympathisers, and meetings addressed by Congressmen. The prompt arrest of the ring-leaders effectively nipped the movement in the bud. A small bridge near the Thiaghola was burnt on the 29th September 1942. Telegraph and Telephone wires were cut in a number of places. Circulation of subversive literature on a small scale was also in evidence.

Total number of persons detained and convicted upto 31st December, 1942 in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement .. 11 and 23. No collection of Fines were imposed.

RAMNAD:

Ramnad was one of the worst affected districts in the Presidency., as seen in the number of acts of mob violence. There were several causes contributing to these violent disturbances in the place. The district as a whole has a reputation for having little respect for law and order even in normal times and the present movement gave the necessary chance for disorderly elements to defy authority openly. The attitude of the General public was also very ~~unsatisfacto-~~ unsatisfactory. They were unhelpful to the Police as they were terrorised into non-co-operation by the mischief makers. Further the situation ~~was~~ found difficult to tackle as the mischief was mostly organized and before hooliganism took place in the village, all communications were cut off and the roads systematically barricaded by rocks and trees cut and thrown across.

There were a number of serious incidents. Mob attacks and acts of violence focussed in the following places at which firing was resorted to:

Rajapalayam, Karaikudi, Devakottai, Tiruvadanai, and Poolan Kurichi. In the last place a lewis gun was also used. The correct figures of casualities were not ascertainable as the rioters removed their causalities. There were many cases of incendiarism and arson. The civil court building at Devakottai, worth about a lakh of rupees, was burnt down by an ~~unmily~~ unruly mob on 12th August 1942. The sub-treasury the sub-Registrar's office, the Deputy Tahsildar's office and other Government buildings at Tiruvadanai were set fire to and destroyed by a riotous mob on 18th August 1942. The Natarajapuram Rly. Station was burnt down on 24th August 1942 by a crowd of about 50 armed with aruval., etc., The damage is estimated at Rs. 700. The Municipal elementary school at Karaikudi was burnt on the 5th September 1942. The damage was valued at Rs. 200/-. At PoolanKurichi on the

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15th August 1942, a gang of men led by a Congress leader burgled the local post office and stole properties valued at Rs.60/-. They waylaid the mail bus in broad daylight and removed 11 mail bags and burnt them. There were numerous instances of looting, rioting and hooliganism. Interference with communications and sabotage to Rly. line etc., were a common feature of the movement. Defiance of law and order, insult to the Police and intimidation of officials were all in the Programme. The Malabar Special Police and a Military detachment from Trichinopoly had to be called out to quell the movement.

The Total number of persons detained and convicted upto 31st December, 1942.. in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement ....7 and 88. Collective fines were imposed and the total amount collected was Rs.2,93,428.

The Ramnad District Board was superseded for a period of six months for passing a resolution on 7th September 1942 placing on record its strong protest against the arrest and detention in jail of Mr. Gandhi and other leaders and attributing the subsequent outbreak of lawlessness in the country to such arrests.

The Virudhunagar Municipal council was superseded for a period of six months for passing certain prejudicial resolutions on 30th September 1942, one of which supported the All India Congress Committee resolution and a second resolved that the Government of India should be handed over to Indians as it considered that the continuance of British rule in India at the present crisis was a danger to India.

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SALEM:

There was little overt enthusiasm for the Civil Disobedience Movement in the district. There were no acts of violence. The only act of incendiarism was the burning of the village Chavadi at Papparapatti by Congressman who admitted his guilt. The District Munisif's court and the District Courts in Salem were repeatedly picketed by Congress Volunteers and they were all arrested. The acts of sabotage took the form of uprooting Telegraph posts, wire-cutting and stealing of post boxes. There were also two instances of removal of fish-plates from the Rly lines, but nothing untoward happened as the offences were detected in time.

Total number of persons detained and Convicted upto 31st December 1942 in connection with Civil Disobedience Movement .. .. 1 and 55.

T A N J O R E:

The worst phase of the Civil Disobedience Movement in the district was between 13th and 16th August 1942, when major cases of mob attacks and violence centered round four places, viz., Trivadi, Tanjore, Mannargudi and Kumbakonam. On the 13th August, 1942 at Trivadi a riotous mob compelled the shop keepers to close shops, cut telegraph and telephone wires and did damage to the officers of the District Munisiff. ~~and did damage?~~ and the sub-registrar. On the 14th August, 1942 at Tanjore a prohibitory order under

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Section 144, Criminal Procedure Code was defied by a Congressman who attempted to hold a meeting. The Police who ordered the meeting to disperse were hit by stones. A lathi charge had to be made to disperse the crowd. On the 15th August 1942 at Mannargudi a Congress mob of about 1,000, armed with sticks, knives and stones cut away telegraph and telephone wires and uprooted Municipal electric lamp post. Later they set fire to the Rly.Station, causing severe damage to the building and railway properties. The railway track was removed for a distance of one furlong. The mob then burnt the sub-Divisional Magistrate's Office and the municipal office destroying all records. On the 16th August, 1942 at Kumbakonam a mob of about 10,000 consisting mostly of hooligans cut telephone wires, bent telegraph wires and barricaded the streets. They pelted stones and glass pieces at the Police and the Magistrate & received injuries. A lathi charge to disperse the crowd proved ineffective. The Police had therefore to open fire in self-defence. In all 19 rounds were fired killing two and injuring seven. A number policemen were injured by stone hits.

The shooting had a sobering effect on the whole district and the situation quietened down quickly. There were few instances of looting and wire-cutting. Collective fines were imposed.

Total number of persons detained and convicted upto 31st December 1942, in connection with Civil Disobedience Movement .. .. 4 and 92.

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TINNEVELLY.

The Civil Disobedience Movement did not spread over the whole of the District. The chief centre of trouble was Tiruchandur taluk. The difficulty of Communications and the sandy nature of the place which greatly hampered the prompt apprehension of the culprits aided the commission of acts of lawlessness. The trouble in the educational institutions soon worked itself out after the students had staged a few strikes and processions in the Tinnevelly town. Though there were not so many serious disturbances in the district as in certain other parts of the Presidency. There occurred in this district., the only case of a murder of a Government Official, Mr. W. Hoane, an Assistant Salt Inspector, was brutally murdered at the salt Factory at Kulasekharapatnam. The mob attacked the salt factory at night and in the attempt to resist he was cut down by the mob with vel.sticks, aruval battleaxes and sticks. There was only one incident which necessitated opening of fire. On 22nd September 1942 a Police party went to Kadalai to arrest a warantee when it was attacked by a mob with vel-sticks and stones. Five Police men were hit. The Police fired three rounds killing one and injuring two. Chief cases of incendiarism were the setting fire to the Kurumbar Rly. Station by a gang of rioters, burning of the Kadalgudi police out post and two toddy shops in Tuticorin, in one of which the watcher and his wife were burnt to death. There was extensive wire cutting and wire stealing and damage to posts and insulators. Near Sermadei three bolts were removed from the joints on the permanent way and two fish-plates were removed on the line north of Tinnevelly Junction. There were no mishaps.

Total number of persons detained and convicted upto 31st December 1942 in Connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement ... 24 and 123, Collective fines were imposed.

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The Tinnevelly district Board was superseded for a period of six months for passing a resolution on 29th August 1942 in which among other things it strongly condemn the arrests of Mr. Gandhi and other Congress leaders and held the Government solely responsible for what the Board called "the disorderly situation now prevailing in the country.

The Tirunelveli Municipal Council was superseded for a period of six months for passing a resolution on 20th September 1942 condemning the action of the Government in arresting the Congress leaders and the measures adopted by the Government for putting down breaches of the peace and ~~(djoining it)~~ adjourning the meeting as a mark of prot

TRICHINOPOLY.

There were no acts of mob violence in this district except in the case where a mob prevented the Police from arresting a person who incited others to carry on the Civil Disobedience Movement.

There were two cases of derailment by removing fish plates, in one a passenger train and in another a goods train were involved, resulting in a total loss of Rs.75,000 to the Rly.

There were no cases of arson and incendiarism. The Civil disobedience Movement in the district soon spent itself out after a few disturbance staged by the students at the beginning of the campaign.

Total Number of persons detained and convicted upto 31st December 1942 in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement .. .. 23 and 16. No collective fines were imposed.

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